

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CICR MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 1973; NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 215035; (B) USNATO 5224

SUMMARY: U.S. STATED SUPPORT OF BRITISH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR CURRENT YEAR. FRENCH REMAINED ADAMANT FOR INTERIM APPROVAL OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR CURRENT YEAR. MEMBERS TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS AND MEET AGAIN NOVEMBER 12. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT BRITISH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR CURRENT YEAR. FRENCH INSISTED THAT SINCE BRITISH HAD ALREADY AGREED TO INTERIM APPROVAL OF OLD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR CURRENT YEAR, ITS PROPOSAL WAS FOR FUTURE YEARS; AMERICANS THEREFORE WERE PROPOSING SOMETHING NEW SINCE IT WAS TO APPLY TO CURRENT YEAR. BRITISH AGREED. FINALLY, COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AMERICAN ADAPTATION OF BRITISH PROPOSAL.

2. FRENCH, HOWEVER, INSISTED THAT THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE ON PRINCIPLE THAT OLD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CONTINUED THIS YEAR. WOULD NOTIFY PARIS OF PROPOSED COMPROMISE BUT COULD GUARANTEE THAT PARIS WOULD JUDGE IT UNACCEPTABLE.

3. LATER FRENCH REP SAID THAT IF HIS AMBASSADOR WANTED EVENTUALLY TO TAKE DIFFERENT POSITION IN COUNCIL OR AT PERMREPS LUNCH, THAT WAS HIS BUSINESS, BUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN CICR WERE ABSOLUTELY INFLEXIBLE.

4. NETHERLANDS REP SAID HE FELT U.S.-UK PROPOSAL WORTHWHILE. OTHERS, LACKING INSTRUCTIONS, LIMITED THEMSELVES TO RESTATEMENTS OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS.

5. CHAIRMAN KOREN SUGGESTED THAT DELEGATIONS SEEK INSTRUCTIONS, POINTING OUT THAT IF CURRENT COMPROMISE PROPOSAL NOT ACCEPTED THERE WAS GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ANYWHERE IN CURRENT YEAR. FRENCH OBJECTED TO THIS FORMULATION, BUT KOREN DID NOT RETRACT.

6. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12. MEANWHILE, KOREN WILL ASK NATO BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WHETHER U.S.-UK COMPROMISE WOULD BE FEASIBLE.

7. MISSION COMMENTS. PARA THREE GIVES HINT THAT FRENCH MIGHT EVENTUALLY YIELD. SINCE U.S.-UK COMPROMISE PROPOSAL GIVES BEST HOPE FOR ULTIMATE ABOLITION OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, MISSION PLANS TO HEAR INSTRUCTED POSITIONS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS BEFORE MAKING NEXT MOVE.

8. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 10 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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